NEXT LEVEL

15+ TEEN+

1

Deathstroke™

THE TERMINATOR

FLEECS
DI GIANDOMENICO
PLASCENCIA

ALL IN

WRITTEN BY EISNER AWARD WINNER GREG RUCKA • ART BY DaNi

NEXT LEVEL

MARCH

BATWOMAN #1

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DAUGHTER. SISTER. SOLDIER. HERO.

HE'S NEVER GOING TO CHANGE.

I'M AFRAID THAT MAY BE TRUE, MY DEAR, BUT I CAN'T DO THIS BY MYSELF FOREVER. IT'S TOO MUCH--

WINTERGREEN, I'M NOT...

I CAN'T SIGN ON TO BE SLADE'S ***MANSERVANT.***

I CAN BARELY STAND TO BE IN THE SAME ROOM WITH HIM. I'M NOT GOING TO HELP HIM WITH HIS--

THAT'S NOT WHAT I...

I CAN'T CONTINUE TO BE THE ***ONLY PERSON*** IN HIS LIFE.

I CAN'T BE IN CHARGE OF KEEPING HIM BALANCED.

I OWE YOUR FATHER MY LIFE BUT...

IT'S TOO MUCH RESPONSIBILITY FOR ONE PERSON.

I'M GETTING OLDER. HE'S GETTING OLDER.

I WON'T BE AROUND FOREVER.

AND THE LIFE OF A MERCENARY IS--

WINTERGREEN. HE'S NOT A MERCENARY...

"...HE'S A KILLER."

Deathstroke
THE TERMINATOR

Part 1: THE KILLER

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TALK TO ME, SLADE.

ARE WE IN POSITION?

IN POSITION.

JUST ABOUT READY.

DO WE HAVE A SECURE LINE?

...

HELLO?

WE GOT A SECURE LINE?

...

...I TALKED TO HER. THIS MORNING.

I SAW ROSE.

...

WAS SHE--

DAMMIT, WINTERGREEN. I CAN'T DO THIS WHILE I'M...

JUST DO THE JOB. GIVE ME DETAILS. WHO'S THE CLIENT?

I'M SORRY. I'M AFRAID I CAN'T SAY.

CAN'T SAY ON RADIO?

CAN'T SAY AT ALL. THIS IS A BLIND DROP.

I TOLD YOU, I HATE THE DAMN BLIND DROPS.

YOU HAVE. AND THAT IS WHY WE CHARGE EXTRA FOR THEM.

YOU NEED TO REACH OUT TO HER, SLADE.

IF YOU DON'T MAKE THINGS RIGHT, YOU COULD LOSE HER.

YOU WANT TO LECTURE ME ABOUT LOSING A CHILD RIGHT NOW?

I CAN'T... JUST...WHAT ABOUT THE TARGET?

I'M SORRY. HE'S...

WITNESS IN A CALE INDUSTRIES DEPOSITION.

WHISTLEBLOWER, 46 YEARS OLD.

YOUR HEADS-UP DISPLAY IS PROGRAMMED FOR FACIAL RECOGNITION.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO JUST SHOWING ME A PICTURE?

CAUCASIAN. DIVORCED. FATHER OF THREE.

HEY, JUST LIKE ME.

IS THAT GOING TO BE AN ISSUE?

ZZZT

VRMMMMMM

WHY WOULD THAT BE AN ISSUE?

CLICK

WHAT'S STANDING IN MY WAY? I SEE ARMORED TRUCKS.

I ASSUME THOSE ARE FULL OF...?

EX-SPECIAL FORCES.

STILL GOVERNMENT? PRIVATE SECTOR?

CLK

WE DON'T HAVE THAT INFORMATION. THEY APPEAR TO BE WELL TRAINED.

REACHING THE TARGET WON'T BE EASY.

IT'S PROTECTIVE CUSTODY. EMPHASIS ON PROTECTIVE.

THEY'VE GOT HIM LOCKED UP TIGHT.

SHNNG

SO, NOT GOVERNMENT, THEN.

ONCE YOU MAKE IT PAST THE TRUCKS ON THE PERIMETER, THERE ARE STILL GUARDS AT EVERY ENTRANCE. MORE INSIDE THE FACILITY.

PRETTY STANDARD STUFF. ANYTHING ELSE?

CALL YOUR DAUGHTER.

ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT THE JOB?

YES. THE CLIENT ASKS THAT THIS BE DONE **QUIETLY**.

VROOOOOOMM

YEAH, I'LL BET THEY DO.

QUIETLY IS WHY WE HAVE TO TAKE ALL THESE CHEAPO JOBS IN THE FIRST PLACE.

MAYBE WE NEED TO REMIND THESE PEOPLE ***WHO I AM.*** ADVERTISE A LITTLE.

YOU'LL HAVE TO APOLOGIZE TO THE CLIENT, WINTERGREEN...

SKREEEEEEE

"...WE'RE DOING THIS ONE LOUD."

BLAM

OKAY, WILLIAM. I'LL REACH OUT...

Rose, I'm sorry...

TING

TING

TING

TING

TING

TING

TING

AUGH!

CLIENT'S NOT GOING TO LIKE THAT.

I know you said not to reach out until I was ready to change but...

UNIT ONE! TAKE HIM!

DON'T LET HIM GET TO THE GATE!

GYAH!

THOOM

THOOM

...things are changing.

YOU KNOW WHAT'S STRANGE, WINTERGREEN?

I DON'T HATE THESE GUYS AT ALL. OR THE TARGETS? I HARDLY THINK ABOUT THEM.

BUT THESE *CLIENTS*...

IMAGINE THE KIND OF EGO YOU'D HAVE TO HAVE TO TELL THE **WORLD'S GREATEST ASSASSIN** HOW TO ASSASSINATE.

WATCH HIM! DON'T LET HIM--

HARD TO FATHOM THAT SORT OF EGO, SIR.

BLAM

BLAM

IF I MAY, I THINK THE CLIENT WOULD TELL YOU THAT'S WHAT THE MONEY IS FOR.

YEAH?

AAGH!

SLAM SLAM SLAM SKLIK

AND THE LAVISH GIFTS...

THE FANCY HIGH-TECH GEAR...

THEY CAN KEEP THE FANCY GEAR. ALL I NEED IS MY--

VRMM VRMMMM

But I'm not sure change is good for me.

HEY... NICE BIKE.

VROOOOOMM

RIIIING
RIIIIIIINNNG

SECURITY GATE 2. HOW CAN I--

YEAH, OF COURSE WE HEARD IT. WHAT WAS THAT, SOME SORT OF EXPLOSION?

UH-HUH.

UH-HUH.

TERMINATOR, NO KIDDING.

NO, ABSOLUTELY. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE HEADS-UP.

HEY, GIL, I THINK I'M GONNA GO AHEAD AND TAKE MY FIFTEEN.

WHO WAS THAT ON THE PHONE?

THAT WAS *UM*...AUSTIN IN THE TOWER?

YEAH? WHAT'D HE SAY?

HE SAID TO... KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR A POSSIBLY STOLEN... MOTORCYCLE?

A WHAT?

$#!?

VROOOOOO

I get more tired, lately. I get grumpy. I lash out.

I'm an old man. Evolution was never in my nature.

THOOOM

I grew up looking for direction. Spent my whole young life taking orders.

Wake up. Yes sir. Go to sleep. Yes sir.

Sit here. Eat this. Point. Aim. Shoot.

I was a trained weapon way before the army gave me any experimental super-soldier treatment.

I'M AT THE SAFE HOUSE DOOR. WHAT AM I GONNA SEE ON THE OTHER SIDE?

MORE OF THE SAME, I'D WAGER.

Superhuman strength and healing factor don't make you more adaptable and open to new ideas...

They make you more set in your ways. Stubborn. Impenetrable.

YOU'D "WAGER"?

TERRIBLY SORRY, MY FRIEND. DETAILS ON INSIDE THE COMPOUND WERE HARDER TO NAIL DOWN.

KA-BAAM

Mostly impenetrable. My first love was exceptionally skilled at finding my weaknesses.

After Adeline, I struggled to maintain close personal relationships. Try as I might.

DO YOU THINK MAYBE YOU SHOULD'VE BEEN TRACKING DOWN INTEL INSTEAD OF FLITTING AROUND IN MY PERSONAL LIFE?

YOU'LL HAVE A SCHEMATIC IN YOUR DISPLAY.

WE KNOW THE ROUTE... JUST NOT...

BRRRRAT

...WHO YOU MIGHT RUN INTO ALONG THE WAY.

HE'S IN SECTOR 14! ALL UNITS TO SECTOR 14!

ALL UNITS TO SEC--

HOPEFULLY NEXT TIME WE BREAK INTO A SUPER-SECRET COMPOUND, YOU'LL HAVE A BETTER IDEA OF WHAT TO EXPECT.

ZAK

KABLANG

WHAT WAS THAT?

IT WAS--

WINTERGREEN, I'VE ONLY GOT ONE EYE...HOW IS IT THAT I'M SEEING DOUBLE?

BODY DOUBLES, BITCH!

YOU'RE GONNA WANT TO STAY ON THE GROUND.

WELL...

...NO CHANCE OF THAT.

CAREFUL, SILVER FOX.

YOU DON'T WANT TO BREAK A HIP.

WINTERGREEN, THEY'RE--

YES, I HEARD THEM...

...BODY DOUBLES-- CARMEN LENO AND BONNY HOFFMAN.

FILES SAY THEY HAVE HEALING FACTORS BUT NOT SUPER-STRENGTH.

CRACK

HEALING FACTORS...

GOOD.

THAT MEANS I CAN STOP HOLDING BAC--

SKLUTCH

HK...

Even so, I've been around long enough to experience a lifetime's worth of loss.

And I've caused immeasurable losses.

You know what I do. How I make my living.

When you do that for your job, it can feel like purgatory.

Highs aren't high. Lows don't feel any different. Everything's right down the middle.

SLADE, WE HAVE TO KEEP MOVING.

GUUUUHH...

RRAAAA!

THUNK

SLADE, KEEP MOVING!

AAAAAAGH!

STABB

THE TARGET SHOULD BE RIGHT THROUGH THAT DOOR.

I'm not sure if I've ever felt joy.

BASTARD!

BLAM

Sometimes I worry I can't feel anything at all.

WINTERGREEN...

...REMIND OUR MYSTERY CLIENT THAT WE CHARGE EXTRA FOR METAHUMANS.

KA-KLAANG

WINTERGREEN?

NO...

NO! WE'RE NOT...

WE'RE NOT DOING THIS!

WINTERGREEN... BILL...YOU CAN'T...

YOU CAN'T DIE, YOU JACKASS.

SLADE- I'M TAKING EVERYTHING

DING

I hope you know that you will always be taken care of.

DING

Transfer Complete

CLICK

Deathstroke Inc.

Account Balance:
$0.00

LOADING

"TAKING EVERYTHING."

SOMEBODY'S...

If you ever need anything. If anything ever happens...

CLICK

SOMEBODY GOT TO WINTERGREEN. GOT ME HERE.

International Bank of Markovia

Combined Balance:
$0.00

THEY TOOK... THEY ALREADY TOOK...

HE HAD ACCESS TO...

THEY TOOK EVERYTHING. THE MONEY. EVERY ACCOUNT... EVERY...

Wintergreen has access to the accounts. He loves you like you were his own.

CLICK

$0.00

First Bank of Gotham

$0.00

Transfer Complete

$0.00

WHO HAD ACCESS? WHO HAD...

I HAVE TO FIND THE CLIENT.

CLICK CLICK CLICK

FIND WHO KILLED--

STOP RIGHT THERE!

PUT YOUR HANDS IN THE AIR AND STEP AWAY FROM THE BODY.

You once said that I was more than just a killer for hire.

That I could do better if I tried.

But I'm always trying.

OFFICER, I CAN--

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT.

ANYTHING YOU--

YEAH. NO.

CLICK CLACK

There is an emptiness inside me. In my blood.

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

TAKE HIM DOWN!

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

DON'T LET HIM--

SORRY TO MAKE YOU A MEAT SHIELD, OLD FRIEND.

I PROMISE, I WOULD'VE DONE THE SAME FOR YOU.

SPWK

SPWK

SPAK

SPAAK

Like a cancer, scratching its way into my bones.

TICK TICK, SLADE.

WHAT IN...

TICK TICK TICK TI

K TICK TICK--

00:02

00:01

WHO SAID THAT?!

WINTERGREEN?

WINTERGREEN?!

AFTERMATH

SOMEBODY HAVE EYES ON HIM? IS HE DOWN? TELL ME HE'S--

SOMETHING'S MOVING. IT'S... HE'S MOVING!

@#$%£, WHAT IS THIS GUY?

I *am* changing, Rose. That's the thing...

SOMEONE...

...TOOK ***EVERYTHING.*** MY MONEY...

...MY BEST FRIEND!

I was just a killer.

Now I'm *something worse.*

TO BE CONTINUED...

THE LAST SON OF KRYPTON MEETS YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN!

FEATURING
"TRUTH, JUSTICE, AND GREAT RESPONSIBILITY"
WRITTEN BY
MARK WAID
ART BY
JORGE JIMÉNEZ

SUPERMAN / SPIDER-MAN #1

ON SALE IN **MARCH**

PLUS SEVEN NEW BONUS STORIES FROM COMICS LEGENDS

WRITTEN BY TOM KING · MATT FRACTION · SEAN MURPHY · GAIL SIMONE · CHRISTOPHER PRIEST · GREG RUCKA · JEFF LEMIRE
ART BY JIM LEE · STEVE LIEBER · SEAN MURPHY · BELÉN ORTEGA · DANIEL SAMPERE · NICOLA SCOTT · RAFA SANDOVAL

AND DON'T MISS MARVEL'S *SPIDER-MAN/SUPERMAN*, ON SALE IN APRIL!

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DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

ALL IN

THE MATRIARCH

INTERVIEW WITH TOM KING

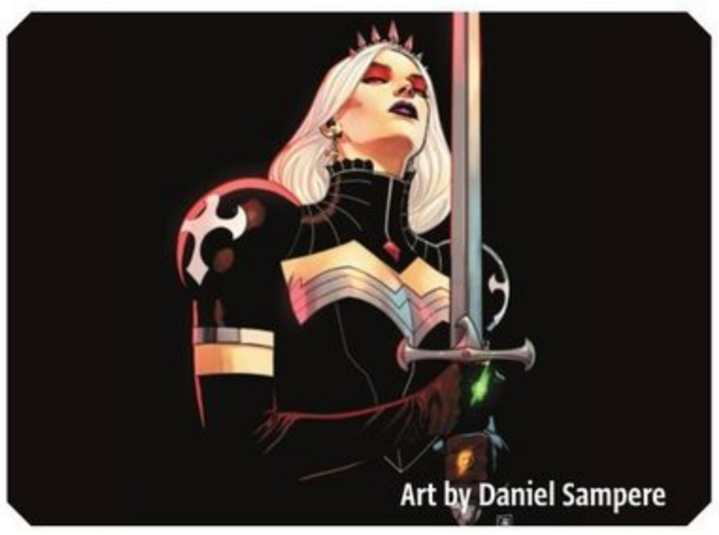
The Matriarch has arrived in the pages of *Wonder Woman*, and she's here to change everything. Superstar writer Tom King reveals Diana's most ambitious villain yet, a royal force of nature with power to topple gods and heroes alike. As "The Wonder War" begins, this future-born conqueror promises an epic showdown that will redefine the Amazing Amazon's legacy.

What can you tell us about the creation of the Matriarch?

From the beginning my brilliant artist, Daniel Sampere, and I wanted to create a huge *Wonder Woman* villain that would be the focus of our arc. We very cleverly put her origin story on the very first page of the series, and nobody noticed, which was fun! We took 25 issues of story leading up to the launch of this character who is the pivotal villain of the whole series, and her name is the Matriarch.

Can you share a bit about the character's design?

Daniel's design is perfect. I wanted her to look like an evil princess, or to have that sort of royalty to her. This look of "I've inherited the world and I can do anything."



Art by Daniel Sampere

How do you craft a villain worthy of Wonder Woman's legacy?

It's my chance to do a Lex Luthor. My chance to do a Joker. That's who the Matriarch is. People who are reading *Wonder Woman* today need an experience as big as the people who were reading *Batman* in the '30s or '40s. They deserve huge comics that aren't just looking backward, but looking forward.

Art by Jorge Fornés

What you started to see in issue #25, the big launch of this character, is she exists in the future. I was sort of inspired by the comics of my youth, where the great villains came from the future. In the future, she has left Themyscira, has conquered Earth, and has killed the Justice League. When you see each of their deaths, their last words to the Matriarch before they succumb to her total power are "Wonder Woman," who's the last hope against this villain.

What can fans expect as we head toward "The Wonder War"?

There's a lot more to come. We've been building on this. We created this character called the Sovereign, who may or may not be her father. You see her birth and the birth of Trinity around the same time. These two babies who start together becoming the greatest of adversaries in the future will be the driving force behind the comic. I couldn't be more excited for where this is going.

Art by Daniel Sampere

DON'T MISS THE EPIC START OF "THE WONDER WAR" IN *WONDER WOMAN* #31, ON SALE IN MARCH!

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